

**LET THE VALLEYS
RISE TO MEET**

HIM



AND

THE HILLS

BOW DOWN

TO GREET HIM

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!

*All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the black folders at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them to the center and then back
so you can greet those worshipping around you.
Ushers will gather these following worship.*

*In the red pew hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship),
page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section,
and hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** Congregation

Children are welcome to participate throughout our
worship service, including at Holy Communion.

*Parents, please assist children when they come forward for communion
to extend their hands if they are to receive the bread and wine.*

Children's Bibles and activity bags
are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary
and scribble cards are available in the pews.

Hearing assistance devices are available outside the Sanctuary or from an usher.

Large print bulletins are available for worship services.



*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace
and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as
we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance,
sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or
relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement,
political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together,
believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

We warmly welcome you here.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9, 2018 † 8:30 A.M.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — Three settings of FREU DICH SEHR

Egil Hovland, John Ferguson, Raymond Haan

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — No. 264

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

*Greeting

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- L** At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for your coming.**
- L** We gather to get ready for what? Only heaven knows. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for your coming.**
- L** We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth,
and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for your coming.**
- L** We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus,
asking him to sort through all our mixed motives. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for your coming.**
- L** Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose
flames bring brightness to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.
- C** **Amen.**

***Response Hymn** — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *stanza 6*

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Prayer of the Day

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible, page 778

After the reading:

L The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Luke 1:68-79

Antiphon: Carolyn Jennings

Antiphon: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high will break upon us.



⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
you have come to your people and | set them free.

**⁶⁹You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,
born of the house of your | servant David. *Antiphon***

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of | all who hate us,

**⁷²to show mercy | to our forebears,
and to remember your | holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands | of our enemies,

free to worship you | without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. Antiphon**

⁷⁶**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,**

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**

⁷⁸**In the tender compassion | of our God
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,**

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. Antiphon**

Second Reading — Philippians 1:3-11

Pew Bible, page 953

After the reading:

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation — No. 552**

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

Stanza 1

***Gospel — Luke 3:1-6**

Spark Story Bible, page 234; Pew Bible, page 834

Before the reading:

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. 256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

***The Nicene Creed** — *page 104, front of hymnal*

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- Ⓐ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☩ **hear our prayer.**

***Peace**

- Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

- ☩ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"The Moon of Wintertime"

arr. Karissa Dennis

Rejoice Ringers

***Offering Hymn** — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *stanza 1* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

***Offering Prayer**

- Ⓐ Let us pray.

- ☩ **God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits
of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience
and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus

PICARDY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign-ing God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, all cre-a-tion seeks your light!
Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name. Bless-ed be the Lord most high!

*Eucharistic Prayer

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end...Do this for remembrance of me.
- P** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P** With this bread and cup...we look with hope for his coming.
- C** Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C** Come, Holy Spirit.
- P** All praise and glory are yours...one God, now and forever
- C** Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

*All God's children are welcome at the table. Communion will be received standing at the front of the sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the middle. After you have been served the bread, you will be offered **wine or grape juice**. The **grape juice** is white and is located in the center of the tray. If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.*

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"



The musical notation for "Lamb of God" is presented in three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below each staff.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Anthem — "I Wonder as I Wander"

John Jacob Niles, arr. Peggy Bettcher

Hymn — No. 715

"Christ, Be Our Light"

*Post-Communion Blessing

***Prayer after Communion**

P Let us pray.

A Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives that we may be messengers to prepare your way, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — No. 249

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Stanzas 1 and 2

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Prepare the Royal Highway”

Robert Hobby



In anticipation of our upcoming 150th church anniversary year, our bulletin covers this Advent and Christmas season pay tribute to the many artists and designers whose artistic vision welcomes us into worship week after week over many decades. The cover this morning is by Judy Swanson, from the Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 1996.

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Eric Sponheim
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers, Zachery Pelletier, director
Cantor	Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch
Advent Wreath Lighters	Kailey Favaro, Hannah Prichard
Acolytes	Johann Schroeer
Communion Preparer	Sharon Bishop
Communion Server	Brad Larson
Communion Cleanup	Georgene Johnson
Greeters / Welcome Desk	(8:30) Carolyn Jennings, Leah Sand
	(10:45) Ruth Dahl, Mark Rydberg
Coffee and Refreshments	Bill and Char Carlson, Anne Klinefelter, Sally Lindell, Leah Sand
Nursery	TBD
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Gordon Jorgenson, Brent Mueller, David Nitz
Ushers	Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Jon McBroom, Cindy McBroom, Brent Mueller, Don Sahling, Dick Werdahl

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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 The logo features the text "Wednesday Night" in a large, black, handwritten-style font. Below it, the word "MEALS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, enclosed within a circular graphic that resembles a plate with a fork on the left and a knife on the right. <p>Wednesday Night MEALS</p>	<p>Served from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall</p> <p>Menu for Wednesday, December 12: <i>Zuppa Toscana Soup</i></p> <p>All are welcome!</p>
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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (December 9):

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

Sunday School: Preschool-Grade 5 (9:45-10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Middle School Youth Group: Grades 6-8 (9:45 a.m., Youth Room)

St. John's Forum: Call the Midwife - A Perspective on Birth and Christmas (9:45 a.m., Sanctuary)

Manna and Mercy Video Discussion Group (9:45 a.m., Fireside Room)

Toddler Time (9:45-10:30 a.m., Room 20)

Next Week (December 16):

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons

Sunday School: Preschool-Grade 5 (9:45-10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Middle School Youth Group: Grades 6-8 (9:45 a.m., Youth Room)

Manna and Mercy Video Discussion Group (9:45 a.m., Fireside Room)

Accompany Newcomer Gathering (9:45-10:30 a.m., Undercroft)

Today's Learning Topics

St. John's Forum: *Call the Midwife - A Perspective on Birth and Christmas*

9:45-10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

St. John's member Tamara Jackman will be reflecting a bit on her experience as a nurse midwife and the story of Christ's birth. Tamara is a Certified Nurse Midwife, in practice serving a diverse community at West Side Community Health Services in St. Paul since 2004.

Manna & Mercy Video Discussion Group Continues Today

9:45-10:30 a.m., Fireside Room

Last week's topic was postponed to this week! After the story of Noah and the flood, Genesis 11 ends in barrenness. But Genesis 12 is like a new start with Abraham and Sarah. Alan Storey offers that through this story God is looking for partnership with us – that is the way the world is healed. God not only wants to come *to us but also through us*.

Middle School Youth Group!

Sundays, 9:45-10:30 a.m., Youth Room

Come to the Youth Room for highs and lows, a video and discussion of the intriguing question: As modern-day Christians, are we supposed to believe Mary was a virgin?

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Gert Brosz by Marie and Duane Benson. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: December 24 & 25. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television – cable channel 180 (please note change of channel number), Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas with Copper Street Brass

Today, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Copper Street Brass presents their popular holiday concert “Christmas on Copper Street”. They will play music from traditional carols to funk and rock holiday tunes. This year’s concert features music of favorite movies and TV specials *The Nutcracker*, *The Snowman*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and *The Grinch*. Tickets will be available at the door (\$25 for adults / \$10 for students).

Advent Vespers - Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesdays, December 12 and 19, at 6:15 p.m.

Each Advent storytime and vespers will include singing, storytime, and prayers for the season of waiting. We will use beautiful children’s books to illuminate the season.

- **December 12:** Listen to the story of the Three Wise Men retold by Barbara Brown Taylor in her new children’s book *Home by Another Way*.
- **December 19:** We’ll hear Frank McCourt’s story *Angela and the Baby Jesus*, an Irish tale of childhood, family, and forgiveness.

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Everyone is invited to consider serving at the special services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please sign up in the Commons or online.

- Greet and Attend the Welcome Desk
- Prepare and Cleanup from Communion

Please Note: The opportunity to serve in these roles is **open to the whole congregation**. The December Hospitality group is responsible for (only!) the FIVE Sundays this year in December!

Are you interested in a Bible 101 Class?

The St. John’s Forum team is considering offering a 4-week Bible 101 class on Sunday mornings this winter or spring season. This would not replace the St. John’s Forum, but would be an additional educational opportunity. Before deciding to do this, we wanted to know how many people might be interested. If you would be interested in this being offered, please contact Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org, or put your name on the sign-up on Pastor Jonathan’s door.

Announcements (continued)

Community Christmas Day Dinner Sign-Ups Continue

Sign-ups continue in the Commons between services. We need donations of food, help with set-up, and help in both the kitchen and in St. John's Hall on Christmas Day. Come see us and sign-up!

Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, stop in the Commons between services or Wednesday evening during the meal. The order form is also available online. The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. The last day to order is Sunday, December 16.

Live Stream of Christmas Service from Bethlehem

Saturday, December 15, 8:30 a.m., St. John's Theater

An opportunity to see and hear a joint Christmas service from Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, and the Washington Cathedral in D.C. will be available in St. John's Theater. The service will be streamed live from the two venues with choirs, organists, pastors, and parishioners from both places. Pastor Mitri Raheb, the pastor at Christmas Lutheran and familiar to many at St. John's, will give a short sermon. This event is sponsored by the Peace & Justice group of St. John's.

You are invited!

Please join us at the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind in Faribault on **Thursday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m.** Students are performing an adapted version of The Nutcracker! There will also be small craft items for purchase that students have created in their on-site work programs. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy the music from these inspiring kids who come from all across Minnesota. For more information, contact Jenny Pelletier at 507-581-2947.

Annual Meeting Reports!

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - the due date for reports is **Friday, December 14**. Please get the reports in on time! And mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 20.

St. John's Website

Please check out our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Our website contains additional information regarding events and programs, along with a link to our online church directory, Church Community Builder (CCB), in the top right hand corner. You can also access the church calendar.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Joann Jorgensen, Gloria Knutson, Jane Koskovich, Suzanne Pfau

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Rodney Helgeson

Family of Daniel E. Hanson (father of Dan Hanson)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Gasho, Fred Gonnerman, Elvin Heiberg, Fred Huemoeller,

Mary Ingbritsen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Bette Quinnell, Betty Schuette,

Eulalie Smestad, Joanne Sommers, Jim Thompson, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Dorothy Ostlie, Lyla Arneson Paulson, Donna Kallestad

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;

Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania; Randy Stubbs & Family,

ELCA missionaries in Tanzania; Curtis and Katie Kline, ELCA missionaries in Colombia

Members of St. John's studying at seminary, including

Henry Burt, Hayden Kvamme

Refugees from Ethiopia being sponsored by St. John's

Paul, Ariat, and their family

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call Joan Halvorson at 507-645-8445 or one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

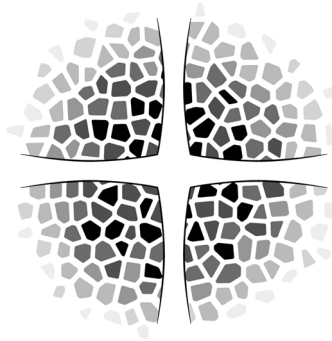
Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 16):

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 + Isaiah 12:2-6 + Philipians 4:4-7 + Luke 3:7-18

This Week At-a-Glance

Monday, Dec. 10	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Women of St. John's Executive Board, Undercroft Manna and Mercy Mondays, Fireside Room Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 11	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.	SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life), Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Knitters (World Vision: Knit for Kids), Offsite Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Sons of Norway Executive Committee, Fireside Room Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall Church Board Meetings, St. John's Hall
Wed., Dec. 12	3:45 p.m. 4:15 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday After School Programming (Grades K-5) Alleluia Choir (Grades K-2), Room 205 Jubilate Choir (Grades 3-5), Room 209 Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Laudate Choir (Grades 6-12), Room 205 Advent Vespers, Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 6), Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 7-8), Sanctuary High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Sanctuary St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Dec. 13	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Executive Committee, Fireside Room Prayer Shawl Knitters, Room 19 Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Balcony
Friday, Dec. 14	8:45 a.m.	SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life), Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Dec. 15	8:30 a.m.	Live Stream of Christmas Service from Bethlehem, Theater
Sunday, Dec. 16	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery (For Schedule Between Services, please see page 11) Worship / Nursery



St. John's

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Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir

Melissa Berthelsen, Parish Nurse

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Tim Byers, Facility Manager

Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager

Angie Gehring / Emerson Clay, Youth Support Staff

Christy Hall-Holt / Mary Kelvie, Shared Ministry Coordinators

Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir

Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants

Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

Bernie Renander, Financial Manager

Call the Church Office, or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.